

October 3, 1960

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Dear Mark:

Thank you for the picture which is very pretty. You may very well want to publish it for its intrinsic interest, but my best guess is that it is not a mating pair. Strain C is F^- and by all odds should not form intra strain matings. Also I would be surprised if the conjugal bridge had so fully developed a cell wall. Of course, how can you be sure?

In my hands - and Kellenberger's - strain C has tended to form small globular cells, sometimes in chains, and I am not sure the group of cells consisted of rods. One guess I might make is that the apparent bridge is an interstitial cell of a chain which had died and deflated. At least I would feel that the connections are more likely to be between cells of a small progeny than fusions of unrelated cells.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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